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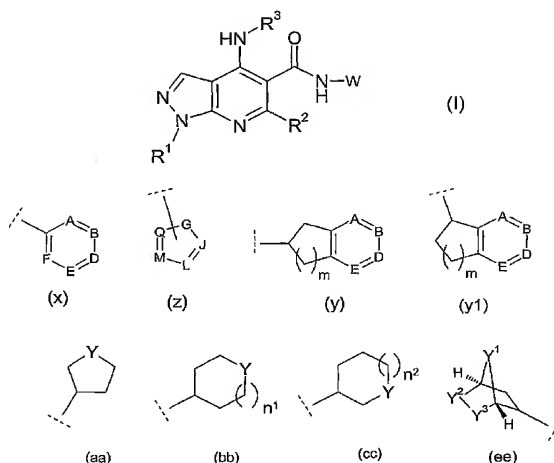
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(54) Title: PYRAZOLO '3,4-B' PYRIDINE COMPOUNDS, AND THEIR USE AS PHOSPHODIESTERASE TYPE 4 (PDE4) INHIBITORS



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof: formula (I) wherein W is Ar, -CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>Ar or a group (y) or (y1), wherein Ar is (x) or (z); formulae (x), (z), (y), (y1) R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-3</sub>fluoroalkyl or CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH. R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>2-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl; and R<sup>3</sup> is optionally substituted C<sub>3-8</sub>cycloalkyl, optionally substituted mono unsaturated C<sub>5-7</sub>cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group (aa), (bb) or (cc) (in which Y is O, S, SO<sub>2</sub>, or NR<sup>10</sup>), or a bicyclic group (ee): formulae (aa), (bb), (cc), (ee). The invention also relates to the use of the compounds in therapy as inhibitors of phosphodiesterase type IV (PDE4), and/or for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of inflammatory and/or allergic diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, rheumatoid arthritis or allergic rhinitis.

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